

GLASGOW VETERINARY COLLEGE,

397 PARLIAMENTARY ROAD, BUCHANAN STREET.

Established under the Authority of Her Majesty the Queen,

AND INCORPORATED, UNDER ROYAL SIGN MANUAL, WITH THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF
VETERINARY SURGEONS.

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HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF HAMILTON.

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JOHN MATHIESON, JUN., ESQ., } For the Glasgow Society for the Pre-
LIEUT.-COLONEL DREGHORN, } vention of Cruelty to Animals.

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THE GLASGOW VETERINARY COLLEGE has been established for promoting the advancement of the Veterinary profession in the West of Scotland, and for facilitating the study of Veterinary Science and Art in all Departments. It aims at diffusing a sound knowledge of the Scientific principles which should regulate Veterinary Practice, and it proposes to institute original investigations into Sanitary Science in its relations to Domestic Animals, and also into the Nature, Causes, and Treatment of their Diseases.

The importance of such an Institution in Glasgow cannot be over-estimated. The absence of a scientific and liberal knowledge on the part of many Veterinary Surgeons, and the practical impossibility of acquiring a systematic acquaintance with the Profession without attending the Colleges in London or Edinburgh, has long been the subject of comment among the public generally, as well as among those more immediately interested in the subject.

The marked prevalence of certain Diseases, and the large average mortality among the Lower Animals of this country and the Sister Kingdom, afford ample evidence of the prejudicial effects of empirical practice, and of the want of proper Educational facilities. More than 60 per cent. of Animals die from preventable and curable diseases. The simple disease "Colic" in Horses, which should be represented by 5 per cent., shows at present a mortality of 45 per cent.; and the loss of Cattle by Pleuro-Pneumonia Epizootica, which might be reduced to a maximum of 10 per cent., ranges at present from 50 to 60 per cent.

The more immediate Objects of the Promoters of the GLASGOW VETERINARY COLLEGE, will be sufficiently indicated by the following summary:—

1. To Educate young men, scientifically and systematically, for the practice of Veterinary Surgery.
2. To instruct Agriculturists, Stock Proprietors, and their Subordinates, in the elements of Sanitary Science, and in the Treatment of Simple Diseases.
3. To impart a knowledge of the principles which should regulate the Housing and Feeding of Horses and Cattle.
4. To inculcate the principles and practice of Horse-shoeing.
5. To afford opportunities by Clinical Instruction for recognising and distinguishing diseases in the Living Subject, and determining with accuracy the actions of Medicines upon the Lower Animals.
6. The investigation of the nature and causes of Epizootics, and their relation to Epidemics, and the determination thereby of Epizootic causes on man.
7. The promotion of the humane treatment of Domestic Animals.

In order to carry out the objects indicated under the fifth head, and which are considered paramount in the Education of Veterinary Students, ample accommodation has been provided for the treatment of Sick Animals within the College Infirmary; and to these, the animals brought to the College for examination, as well as those located at several establishments in the City, the Students will have access when the Principal is present, unless in cases where it is deemed advisable, from the nature of the disease or the request of the owner, that they should be debarred.

The field for Surgical observation is large and varied, and special care is taken not only to instruct the Student in the method of fixing and operating on the animal, but the further treatment in the Infirmary is entrusted to his care, subject to the guidance of the Principal at all times.

In the Medical department all means likely to alleviate animal suffering and hasten recovery are adopted, and with the view of rendering the Hospital as complete in this light as possible, a Roman or Turkish Bath, suitable for Horses and Oxen, has recently been added.

1869. 70

LECTURE.

By Prof. Moffat.

GENTLEMEN,

In accordance with the custom of former years, the opening of a New Session is made the occasion of an Introductory Lecture; and I have the honour this day to bid you welcome to this College to inaugurate the commencement of another Winter Session.

This day is to break the quiet of a six months' vacation, and it is also to proclaim that your laborious studies are now to be resumed, to fit you for your walk of life. To those gentlemen who have already attended the classes of this College, and are now to work their own advancement, and that of the profession generally, and whose well known faces link the past with the present, allow me, in the name of your respected Principal, the other Professors, and myself, to bid you most heartily welcome back to the field of your vocation.

To the junior students who, for the first time, enter this institution to begin their professional labours, permit me as sincerely and heartily to give them an earnest reception. That both classes of our students should each in their turn have given to them a careful, well-grounded, and intelligent acquaintance of the entire Veterinary Profession, is the sincere wish of all your Professors; and that a brilliant after-career in life may be the destiny of all of you, is the fervent desire of your teachers.

In entering upon a profession such as yours, where much responsibility is often cast upon your shoulders, there is one thing to be obtained before all others, and that is a good name. It is ever to be kept in mind that a good name in all cases is the fruit of personal exertion. It is not inherited from parents; it is not created by external advantages; it is no necessary appendage of birth, of wealth, or station; but the result of one's own endeavours.

This is the more important to be remarked, because it shows that the attainment of a good name, whatever be your external circumstances, is entirely within your own power. No young man, however humble his birth or obscure his condition, is excluded from this invaluable boon. He has only to fix his eye upon the prize, and press towards it in a course of virtuous and useful conduct, and it is his. And it is interesting to notice how many of our worthiest and best citizens have risen to honour and usefulness by dint of their own persevering exertions. They are to be found in great numbers in each of the learned professions,

and in every department of business; and they stand forth bright and animating examples of what can be accomplished by resolution and effort. Nothing great or excellent can be acquired without it. A good name will not come without being sought. You should guard with peculiar vigilance this forming, fixing season of your existence; and let the precious days and hours that are now passing by, be diligently occupied in acquiring those habits of intelligence, of virtue and enterprise, which are so essential to the honour and success of future life. Young men are in general but little aware how much their reputation is affected, in the view of the public, by the company they keep. The character of their associates is soon regarded as their own; if they seek the society of the worthy and respectable, it elevates them in the public estimation, as it is an evidence that they respect themselves, and are desirous to secure the respect of others. On the contrary, intimacy with persons of bad character always sinks a young man in the eye of the public; while he perhaps in intercourse with such persons thinks but little of the consequences, others are making their remarks; they learn what his taste is; what sort of company he prefers; and predict, on no doubtful ground, what will be the issue of his own principles and character. There are young men in this city—and those too who have no mean opinion of themselves—to be intimate with whom would be as much as one's reputation is worth. And, let me add, that a young man, especially in this place, may choose his company. If he wishes for good society he can find it. If he respects himself, he will be respected. Consider the importance of a good name to your success in the world. Your reputation is better to you than the richest capital. It makes friends; it creates friends; it draws around you patronage and support, and opens for you a sure and easy way to health, honour, and happiness. There are in this, and there are in every community, men of property and influence, who always stand ready to encourage and assist young men of enterprise and merit. The way is always open for such to establish themselves in business and to rise in their calling, whatever it be.

To place before you an outline of your studies, it will be necessary to state the particular subjects that you are called upon, with which to engage your attention during the Session. We have the department of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery and the Pathology of the horse, ox, dog, and other domesticated animals; secondly, we have Veterinary Anatomy and Physiology; thirdly, Veterinary Materia-Medica; fourthly, Chemistry; fifthly, Practical Anatomy and Anatomical Demonstrations; and sixthly, there is Practical Pharmacy and Clinical Instruction.

Now, Gentlemen, a very complete and extensive knowledge of these subjects is required of you before you can hope to pass successfully your examinations. There is scarcely one subject more important than another. It will not do to master one or two subjects, to the partial exclusion of those which you may fancy are

subservient and occupy a subordinate position. They are each and all important, and a thorough knowledge of them is essentially requisite to fit you for your profession. My advice to you is, endeavour to master them by honest, earnest, and straightforward labour—for labour, in every sense of the term, it is—and you will have the satisfaction of knowing that, whatever your success at your examinations and your after success in life may be, that you did to the utmost of your ability.

By your attendance at the classes of this College you have given you facilities for obtaining information which are in themselves of vast service and utility. We undertake to educate you “scientifically and systematically for the practice of Veterinary Surgery; to instruct agriculturists, stock proprietors, and their subordinates in the elements of sanitary science, and in the treatment of simple diseases. To impart a knowledge of the principles which should regulate the housing and feeding of horses and cattle. To inculcate the principles of horse-shoeing. To afford opportunities, by clinical instruction, for recognising and distinguishing diseases in the living subject, and determining with accuracy the actions of medicines upon the lower animals.” Many other facilities are given you for obtaining that insight into the subjects of your profession which go to make the successful Veterinarian. There is also a Veterinary Medical Association established in connection with the College, which holds weekly meetings, and at which papers on veterinary science are read by students, and discussions held thereon. A very valuable and extensive library is also in connection with the College, and forms a most important adjunct. The infirmary here for veterinary patients is most complete, and opportunities are afforded, by the introduction of urinals into the stables for the collection of urine, so that students may chemically examine that fluid in all the stages of disease. There is also the Principal’s farm, to which convalescent animals are in many cases sent. Again, through the numerous official appointments held by Professor M’Call, access to the steamers coming into the Clyde with cattle and sheep is obtained. The cattle trains to Glasgow bring in many interesting cases, and they are at all times subject to inspection. The same remark applies to the markets and to all the dairies in town.

You cannot but be struck, Gentlemen, at the great change which this building has undergone since last you left it. By the munificence of the head of this College, a large and convenient lecture hall, museum, and pharmacy have been added. This of itself is indeed a large sacrifice of capital, and when we know that it has been done without any assistance from Government or otherwise, and simply from a desire on the Principal’s part to add to your comfort, and to give you still greater facilities for instruction, we cannot thank him sufficiently.

You are aware, Gentlemen, that about two years ago a movement was instituted by the trustees of the Edinburgh Veterinary

College and the Highland and Agricultural Society for the purpose of obtaining a Scotch Veterinary Charter, intending to develop a Veterinary Licensing College for Scotland; and knowing as I do the interest you manifest in all matters pertaining to this important subject, I will place before you, very briefly, a few remarks of what has been the result of the proceedings. All such negotiations are usually subjected to opposition, and this case forms no exception. It was intended to obtain a charter for the bestowing of a veterinary "Diploma for Scotland." The Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons is the only chartered institution in Great Britain and Ireland which has the authority to grant diplomas. Though placed in London, and granting its diplomas to students attending recognised schools in Scotland and England, it cannot be said that it is strictly an English institution. It is a national institution. It is simply the head centre for veterinary examination business. Its examiners are deputed to hold certain examinations in the capital towns of Great Britain. The result of these examinations, if considered satisfactory, are the granting of diplomas in the name of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons. Any student who may have attended this College and obtained his diploma after passing a satisfactory examination before the Board of Examiners deputed by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, is entitled to rank equal with any other veterinary surgeon. I mention this fact particularly, because it would seem to be an opinion in some parts of Scotland that it is the College at which a student is taught that grants the diploma, and not the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons. There is so considerable an outlay by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons in holding these examinations, that it leaves but a small margin to the credit side in their books. Now, when we come to consider the desirableness of having a similarly chartered College in this country, and bearing in mind that at present all students rank equal in their profession by having the same diploma from the same College, and that if the Scottish chartered institution ever could maintain itself pecuniarily—which is very doubtful—a diploma granted by it would not be regarded in many parts of England and Ireland, at least for very many years, as sufficiently recommendatory. This scheme was heartily opposed by many, including your Principal, and I place before you some remarks of his at the time of the meditated charter two years ago:—"The charter of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons is a charter applicable to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, was obtained on the application of the late Professor Dick of Edinburgh, and others, and was granted to him and them, 'together with such other of our loving subjects as now hold certificates of qualification, to practise as veterinary surgeons, granted by the Royal Veterinary College of London and the Veterinary College of Edinburgh respectively;' so that, in point of fact, we have a charter for Scotland already." Then I have yet to learn

that it is either inefficient in its workings in, or unjust to Scotland. On the contrary, all must admit that it has wrought here efficiently and well, and been most impartially administered. Further, I do not see the benefit to be obtained by having a diploma from the proposed Royal Veterinary College of Scotland, instead of one from the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons. The diploma of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons is known and recognised in the army and throughout Great Britain and its dependencies, while it is doubtful if the diploma of the proposed Royal Veterinary College of Scotland would be recognised elsewhere than in Scotland. And I do not see the advantages to be derived by the possession of the proposed charter. There is almost no provision of consequence to veterinary science and the profession which is not quite as well provided for in the charter of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons as it is in the proposed new charter. It is unnecessary for me to contrast the two, as most veterinary surgeons will do or have done so already.

Then where are the funds to be got necessary for sustaining the new college? The charter embraces only Scotland. Suppose the whole of the students studying at our Scottish schools—a very unlikely thing to occur—were to take their licenses from the new college, there would not be from this source sufficient funds to sustain it. And I do not see any other source of income from which the staff of officials for the new college are to get payment of their salaries. Even the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, with its income from students coming from all parts of the world, does not, I believe, find that its income is any more than sufficient for its efficient management. If, therefore, a new charter is granted, it will have the effect of weakening the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, without creating a strong college in Edinburgh, and we will then have two weak bodies instead of one strong one. This is to be avoided, because veterinary science and art can neither advance nor flourish under such circumstances. The Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons is quite as much a Scottish institution as an English one; but suppose it was English, we are more concerned with the fact of whether the Royal College deals rightly and justly by us, than whether it is English or Scottish—and all know that it does. “Its examinations are conducted by medical gentlemen practising in Edinburgh, and not a few of the examiners are Scotchmen, and were educated at the Edinburgh Veterinary College. I think this question of nationality should have no place in our discussions, and that the sooner we forget such questions the better will it be for the public and the profession.” The result of all this has been the rejection of the proposed charter by the Government authorities, on the ground that such an institution would, to a great extent, fail in its endeavours to extend the usefulness of veterinary science, through the want of co-operation on the part of the profession. It was considered that one great Faculty, having the

power to grant diplomas to students from all parts of Great Britain and Ireland, and so placing all veterinary surgeons on an equal footing, were enough to carry out, in an efficient manner, the education of the Veterinarian.

There has been recently passed "An Act to consolidate, amend, and make perpetual the Acts for preventing the introduction or spreading of contagious or infectious diseases among cattle and other animals in Great Britain." As this Act will tend very considerably to benefit the public, and at the same time the entire veterinary profession, to raise its status and increase its emoluments, I have little hesitation in placing before you the substance of this Act, that you may thoroughly understand the duties and responsibility of veterinary surgeons as inspectors:—"The term contagious or infectious disease includes cattle plague, pleuro-pneumonia, foot and mouth disease, sheep pox, sheep scab and glanders, and any disease which the Privy Council from time to time by order declare to be a contagious or infectious disease, for the purposes of this Act."

"Every local authority shall, from time to time, appoint so many inspectors and other officers as appear to the local authority necessary for the execution of this Act, and shall assign them such duties, and award them such salaries or allowances as the local authority think fit, and may at any time revoke any appointment so made, but so that every local authority shall at all times keep appointed at least one inspector."

"Every person having in his possession, or under his charge, an animal (including a horse) affected with a contagious or infectious disease, shall observe the following rules:—

"(1). He shall, as far as practicable, keep such animals separate from animals not so affected.

"(2). He shall, with all practicable speed, give notice to a police constable of the fact of the animal being so affected; such police constable shall forthwith give notice thereof to the inspector of the local authority, who shall forthwith report the same to the local authority, and to the Privy Council. Where an inspector finds any contagious or infectious disease to exist in his district, he shall forthwith make a return to the local authority and to the Privy Council of the number and description of all animals being on the farm, or in the shed, or other place where the disease is found, which he considers liable to be affected with disease, distinguishing those that are actually affected with the disease, and shall continue to make a similar return on the Saturday of every week until the disease has disappeared."

It is particularly to be observed that the advisability of the Act only now passed has repeatedly been urged upon the authorities by eminent veterinary surgeons; and in the Introductory Address delivered here in November, 1866, Professor M'Call said:—"The plague has drained the pockets of farmers and dairymen of thousands sterling, but, thank Providence, we are now free of the dis-

ease in this country. Pleuro-pneumonia has drained our pockets of millions of pounds, and she is still in our midst, the great enemy of our stock. And why is it so? Can nothing be done for it? Yes, much. It is a specific disease, and a disease not natural to the British Isles. Kill all, all foreign fat cattle where they first touch our shores, or at the first market in which they are exhibited; quarantine all foreign store stock until they shall have proven themselves to be sound; inspect our markets, excluding all diseased animals, and have our fat and store markets apart; inspect our dairies, and only license such sheds or byres as are well-ventilated and thoroughly drained; determine the number of animals to be kept, by the cubic and superficial capacity of the byre; isolate all infected herds or dairies, where pleuro-pneumo exists, treating the diseased, and burying the dead; inspect all public conveyances used in the transit of live stock; regulate the number of cattle, under any circumstances, carried by steamers, paying special attention to the ventilation and standing space. Use the means I have indicated, and other means which the Plague has taught us to be of benefit in controlling contagious diseases, and if the contagious pleuro-pneumonia of cattle, now decimating our stock, is not thereby completely extinguished—‘stamped out’—its operations will be so curtailed, that the loss resulting to stockholders from the presence of the disease, will sit lightly upon their shoulders. The chief, nay, almost the sole enemy to the health and lives of cattle within byres, is epizootic pleuro-pneumonia. This so-called pleuro-pneumonia is a highly contagious febrile disease; and, in my experience, contagious to that extent that the ventilation, the drainage, and other conditions of the byres have little influence in arresting the onward march of the disease. Like Rinderpest, once allow pleuro-pneumonia to have a victim within the byre, and few, if any, will escape its grasp. Do not mistake me. I am alive to the benefits of ventilation, drainage, cleanliness, and other hygienic conditions which we well know assist in maintaining the standard of health. But, I repeat, drain, ventilate, and improve the condition of the byres until they become models of perfection, and yet, notwithstanding, permit a cow labouring under pleuro-pneumonia to enter any one of these byres, and she will, in due course of time, transmit the disease, with few exceptions, to every cow in the byre which has not had a previous attack of the same disease.

“Knowing this to be the case, and that the opinion I now tender, I again repeat the Bill in itself is but half a measure, and unless the local authorities throughout Scotland supply the element which it wants—namely, a rigid exclusion of all diseased animals from our markets and dairies, it might almost as well never have passed into law. The landlords and tenants of dairies in burghs and other populous places throughout Scotland are now called upon, *compelled*, to lay out money in improving their condition, and will only be allowed to keep a certain number of cattle

within them; and if the authorities do not bestir themselves immediately, and put down those individuals who traffic in every variety of diseased cattle, thereby spreading cattle plagues broadcast over the land, ruining cattle proprietors, and feeding the community upon diseased meat and milk, I do hope the public and the press will not delay in calling them to account."

In the interests of the veterinary profession it is a most desirable thing that intending candidates should have received a well-grounded and enlightened knowledge of the usual branches of a general education.

It has been the custom of Professor Spooner of the Royal Veterinary College, for several years past, to apply to all the students before entering on their duties, preliminary tests in general education, in order that they might with advantage to themselves and to their avocation, pursue their studies without those difficulties which a deficient education engenders; and, also, that they might keep a creditable position in society. The system has worked well, and evidence of its good is being daily observed.

The same system was inaugurated in this college at the commencement of last Session, and it will henceforth be continued. It is to be hoped that the trustees of the Edinburgh Veterinary College will also institute these preliminary educational tests soon. They serve to indicate whether the student really possesses those acquirements which assist him, not only in his profession, but in every department into which he may be called to enter in life. The Veterinarian of the present time is called upon to learn the lesson that his duties demand, that he shall not only be well versed in the treatment of serious disorders, and in the performance of formidable operations, but that he should know well the common sense science of every-day life. I cannot too strongly impress upon you, Gentlemen, the necessity there is for understanding the principles of efficient ventilation, disinfection, and the chemical examination of drugs, air, water, and urine. Much evil may be obviated by attention to the quality of the air and water with which you provide your patients. A few simple tests are in many cases sufficient to inform you of the purity of both the air and water, but as these points will be fully discussed in my lectures, I will not at this time advert further to them. The present state of science affords a brilliant contrast to its gloomy condition in bygone years, when but a scanty number of its great facts were known and its principles understood. The science of to-day has unfolded to us things never dreamt of a century ago, and things which would then, had they been known, have been ridiculed into oblivion by the few followers of scientific research. Many of the sciences are ardently pursued and considered as proper objects of study for all refined minds, not only on account of the intellectual pleasure they afford—not only because they enlarge our views of nature, and enable us to think more correctly with respect to the beings and objects surrounding us—

but because they lead us to facts and discoveries of the utmost practical value. As no man can know science thoroughly, it is necessary to divide it into departments, and constitute several sciences, in order that we may grasp, in a satisfactory manner, all the facts and principles contained in them. Chemical science is of vast usefulness. This science attends the mineralogist and the geologist into the bosom of the earth, and on the summits of the mountains, to develop the nature, the composition, the changes, and often the origin, as well as the future fall of the different beds of the globe and fossils of which they are formed. To the botanist and agriculturist it opens a treasure of discoveries and prospects adapted to explain the secret of vegetation. To the physiologist it holds out the only prospect which he has of ever discovering the sources of animal life. To the meteorologist it has thrown a new light on all the great changes which take place in the atmosphere. Chemistry has now become the science most adapted to the sublime speculations of philosophy, and the most useful in all the operations of the arts. Exact in its processes, sure in its results, varied in its operations, abounding with resources from its instruments, its apparatus, and its manipulations, without limit in its applications and its views, severe and geometrical in its reasoning, there is scarcely any human occupation which it does not enlighten and improve. Many other advantages arising from the cultivation of chemistry might be mentioned, and even many of the arts enumerated which depend entirely on this science for their successful application and improvement. But enough has already been said to show the great utility of chemical knowledge to all classes of the community in every situation in life. We glory in the conquests of science, but we look upon science as merely an agent. Science may be a botanist, but *who* started the vital fluid in the veins of the herb and flower? Science may be a geologist, but *who* wrote the rock-covered page whose hieroglyphics she would translate? Science may be an astronomer, but *who* built the worlds, *who* projected the comets whose mysterious path she traces? Science may be an agriculturist; she may open the earth's breast and cast in most precious seed, but if the fountain of dew be stayed, science herself will die of thirst. Be it observed, then, that science is an agent, not a cause, and that, while we rejoice in its agency, we are bound to acknowledge the goodness and mercy of our Creator.